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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

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Memo:

Parliamentarians for East Timor

Three parliamentarians, from the UK, Japan and Australia, have just made a very successful visit to Lisbon. Enclosed is a copy of their final statement. This does not mention their visit to President Mario Soares which occurred after the press conference, but it was a useful meeting.

As you will see, it was decided to set up a new organisation, Parliamentarians for East Timor. For the time being, the secretariat is here in London under Lord Avebury's general direction, with me handling the secretarial side of the work. Money will need to be raised to give the group its own secretariat.

The three founders decided that there would three kinds of membership:

1. Affiliates, that is, groups of MPs taking a special interest in E Timor like the parliamentary forums in Japan and Australia and the Parliamentary Human Rights Group in London.

2. Individual members.

3. Associate members, namely former MPs who have been and still are committed to the E Timor issue.

No doubt, at present, your own parliament is in recess, so this is probably not the time to start making approaches. But perhaps you could begin to consider the possibility of recruiting members/affiliates for this new organisation.

As the statement says, the Declaration on East Timor signed in 1985 by more than 420 parliamentarians is being used as the founding document. In countries where parliamentarians were among the signatories, perhaps you would consider them as potential contacts or members, and get back in touch with them. Hopefully, you still have your own list of the signatories from your country. If not, we could supply it from here (at some effort!).

Please tell us of any developments. Hopefully, after the summer recess, we will be able to broaden the organisation and it will start taking some initiatives.

Carmel